

Dear Jim,

1/16/84

How glad I am to have Salinger's 20th anniversary piece! It will go into my Tiger file, for the book I hope yet to be able to do. I make these few comments on it for you, Dave and that file.

Some, to the best of my knowledge, is not previously reported and is entirely consistent with the record the revisionists have been attacking for some years.

Salinger's testimate of the post-missile crisis period is correct, but I believe from what I have read that JFK was uncertain, as of the time of the limited test ban agreement, that he had this majority. However, he ran that risk.

Where Salinger says that JFK announced that we would be withdrawing 2500 advisers from VN in 1964, I believe there was no such specific announcement and I believe the number was a third lower, about 1700. Salinger is correct on JFK's intentions and confused on the announcement. I recall only a short Pentagon statement that we could begin the withdrawal because a re-evaluations showed it was safe. What JFK did do is call his generals in and try to persuade them that VN was a political, not a military problems and that political problems are not susceptible of military solutions. My source, General Gavin, in my interview of him about 6/67. About three days after the assassination the Pentagon re-evaluated and the rest is history.

I have no idea where Salinger got the notion that the USSR has a current nuclear advantage or that there are those who say they seek this because of what happened to them in 10/62. I do not believe either part of this.

I find Salinger's claim to ignorance about JFK's "Womanizing" particularly interesting because he may not know that they shared one particular ~~my~~ woman, who is my source. She is not dead. There was a time when I was trying to (and ultimately did) end one of Garrison's wildest kicks, of a sado-masochist ring involvement and Salinger as part of it. It was in this connection that I spoke to her about S. She claimed opposite personal knowledge and experience.

There was some joking about S. when he became JFK's press secretary, and although he often joked, I believe he was one of the best of them.

While he has written little about the assassination, Charles Roberts appears to have talked him into part of his belief and to have persuaded him to write an introduction into Roberts' finky book, "The Truth about the Assassination." S. would have died if he'd heard some of what Roberts said when I confronted him once. He was silent thereafter, I add.

My hearing problem is not serious. Some nerve deafness that eliminates the higher registers. These new aids can amplify part of the spectrum. Your friend shares what I've learned is a common problem, amplification of background.

On the weather, we've had rather continuous ^{freezing} subzero weather, close to zero fairly often at night and often with strong winds. If it stays this way it will not have to go below zero to make many problems because the ground will freeze lower and raise paving and break pipes. It did in 1977. The building code has an 18" frost line and it can get below that by prolonged freezing weather. But we are making out OK and it looks like my wood will be sufficient for the heating season.

By coincidence I heard the other day from another of the KGO talk-show people, the all-night guy whose name, as best I recall, is Noah Griffin or Griffith. He wants me to do an early Sunday a.m. (here) segment. He told me that Spann is now network and soon will be moving to do his show out of New York. I'd almost assumed what you say about Eason from his long silence. When I last heard from him he was into the nutty stuff. Noah was going to speak to him. I've not heard from him

since. No big deal. I had a notion that it might be worth trying to reach the guy who phoned me about 12/15/66 on the Joe Dolan show and gave me accurate info on the LHO he knew in the "business. I think if that guy wants to he can provide more.

If I didn't tell you, I heard from Hal Verb for the first time in years after he heard about Jean Davison's book, of which he sent me a silly review. I asked him for the talk-show rundown and I've heard nothing since.

Howard was here two weeks ago. He had business in the east and came down from Boston on his way back. He is now general counsel for Lucas films and is enjoying it very much. He is also dabbling at making shorts and enjoying that. With the 12 hours a day he spends at work he has little time. He looked and sounded well.

Glad your back is letting you make out. Remember how important it is to use the knees instead when possible. We are both OK, considering. Lil is making out remarkably well with a broken metatarsal bone and having relatively little pain. She gets around with a walker that I think she'll soon discard. I had a little scare a week ago when it appeared that I was passing blood in the stools. The local emergency room said no but my doctor is not completely satisfied. This was my second experience with paramedics, both excellent. Had to use an ambulance because it was snowing then and the doctor ordered it. He did the preliminary workup in the ambulance before it left here, checking all the time with a doctor, by radio.

DJ still does not dare charge me with contempt. Or even try to collect what the judge awarded them from me. Instead they've told Oscar they will seek a judgement from him. He says he is finally angry. I hope his anger lasts a little. He told me Saturday and was to have spoken to the ACLU today. Which is only what I tried hard to get him to do beginning about a year ago when what they were up to was obvious. Because what they have done is a threat to all lawyers the ACLU has a safe enough issue. Meanwhile, I am and will be technically in contempt. As I am in fact.

best wishes,